REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 are rejected under U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Notredame et al. (US 6,049,390).

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 16 have been amended. Claim 10 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and following remarks.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview of July 21, 2004. Applicant's representatives Mark Kirkland and Alexander Fishkin, and Examiners David Jones and Edward Coles participated in the interview. Claims 1 and 7, and U.S. 6,049,390 (Notredam et al.) were discussed. Applicant argued that Notredame et al. (herein further referred to as Notredame) does not disclose adding a knockout object into a page. No agreement was reached.

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, recites a host-based method for identifying an area within a color layer of a page that is not to be painted when producing a final output page. The method includes providing a page including a plurality of color layers, a first one of which includes a gradient. The method further includes defining a clippath for the gradient, converting the clippath to a high level representation, and adding the high level representation of the converted clippath back to the page into one or more other color layers different from the first color layer. The method further includes identifying the high level representation as a knockout area that is not to be painted.

Noterdame describes a method for compressing RIPed data before transmitting it to a printing device. For a given page element, the method includes separating the given page element into LW data (line work data, e.g., texts, graphs, block diagrams) and CT data (continuous tone data, e.g., pictures), generating separate raster images for each type of data (as well as a CT validity mask, which flags which CT pixels contain valid data) for each color separation (column 11, lines 6-9), and interleaving the different types of data upon transmission to a printing device.

In the rejecting claim 1, the Examiner, citing column 13, lines 1-29 of Notredame, states that Notredame discloses adding a high level representation of a converted clip path back to a page and identifying the high level representation as a knockout area that is not to be painted. The cited passage teaches identifying areas that are to be painted with page data (i.e., CT data – FIG. 9e, #949 and LW data – FIG. 9e, #947 and # 945). However, nothing in the cited passage or anywhere in Notredame teaches or suggests adding a high level representation that is not to be painted into a page. More specifically, Notredame does not teach a host-based method that includes adding a high level representation of a converted clippath back into a page into one or more other color separations different from a first color separation associated with a given gradient. For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 7

Claim 7, as amended recites a host-based method for identifying an area within a color layer of a page that is not to be painted when producing a final output page. The method includes identifying an object within a page including a plurality of color layers that is to be overprinted and has a color definition that specifies color data for less than all of the color layers in the page. The method further includes generating a knockout object associated with the identified object within at least one color layer for which the color definition of the object does not specify data and adding the knockout object to the page including or into at least one color layer for which the color definition of the object does not specify data.

As stated above in reference to claim 1, Notredame does not teach or suggest adding a knockout object into a page. More specifically, Notredame does not teach or suggest adding a knockout object into a page into at least one color layer for which the color definition of a given object that is to be overprinted within the page does not specify data. For at least this reason, claim 7 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites a host-based computer implemented method for identifying an area within a color layer of a page that is not to be painted when producing a final output page. The method includes instructions for causing a computer to provide a page including a plurality of

color layers, a first one of which includes a gradient. The method further includes instructions for causing a computer to define a clippath for the gradient, and convert the clippath to a high level representation. The method further includes instructions for causing a computer to add the high level representation of the converted clippath back to the page into one or more other color layers different from the first color layer and identify the high level representation as a knockout area that is not to be painted.

For at least the reasons stated above in reference to claim 1, Notredame does not teach a host-based computer implemented method that includes instructions for causing a computer to add a high level representation of a converted clippath back into a page into one or more other color separations different from a first color separation associated with a given gradient. For at least this reason, claim 11 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites a host-based computer implemented method for identifying an area within a color layer of a page that is not to be painted when producing a final output page. The method includes instructions for causing the computer to identify an object within a page including a plurality of color layers that is to be overprinted and has a color definition that specifies color data for less than all of the color layers in the page. The method further includes instructions for causing the computer to generate a knockout object associated with the identified object within at least one color layer for which the color definition of the object does not specify data and append the knockout object to the page into at least one color layer for which the color definition of the object does not specify data.

For at least the reasons stated above in reference to claim 7, Notredame does not teach or suggest a host-based computer implemented method that includes instructions for causing a computer to add a knockout object to a page into at least one color layer for which the color definition of a given object that is to be overprinted within the page does not specify data. For at least this reason, claim 16 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/23/04

Mark D. Kirkland
Reg. No. 40,048

Fish & Richardson P.C.
500 Arguello Street, Suite 500
Redwood City, California 94063
Telephone: (650) 839-5070
Facsimile: (650) 839-5071

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